

REMARKS**Objections to the Drawings**

The drawings were objected to because the Examiner believed the character L1 was used to identify both an axis and reused to identify length.

The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and seeks reconsideration. In the cited paragraph 16, the reference character L₁ is used for the longitudinal axis and the reference character L1 is used for the circumferential length. It is proposed that the Examiner may not have differentiated properly between the L₁ and L1 (or character "l" and number "1"). The Applicant calls the Examiner's attention to this differentiation and seeks reconsideration of the objection.

The drawings were further objected to for failing to show the limitations in the last paragraph of claim 1 (The Examiner arguing namely that the length L1 is equal to, not greater than the length L2 as claimed). The Applicant respectfully traverses this objection and seeks reconsideration. The Examiner's attention is called to Figure 3c wherein it is clear that the length L1 is greater than the length L2, which can be measured from the drawings if necessary. The Applicant asserts that this objection is therefore not proper and reconsideration is requested.

Objections to the Title

The title was objected to for containing the term "improved". The term has respectively been removed from the title and is presently in proper form.

Claims rejected under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1 & 8-26 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hildebrandt (US 2002/0128079) in view of Ouchi (6,368,223). The Examiner asserts that Hildebrandt teaches the underlying limitations of the claimed invention with the exception of the circumferential length of the first cage window being greater than the circumferential length of the second cage window. The Examiner further asserts that

Ouchi teaches this limitation and that the combination would be obvious to one skilled in the art.

The Applicant traverses this rejection and seeks reconsideration. The main aspect of the present invention as claimed is:

- the first cage windows having the greater circumferential length are related to the first pairs of tracks which widen towards the attaching end of the joint; and
- the second cage windows having the smaller circumferential length are related to the second pairs of tracks which widen towards the aperture end of the joint.

The aforementioned result in the inventive step wherein the inventive counter track joint has an overall minimized circumferential window length and thus has an increased strength of cage. This leads to a long service life of the claimed joint.

Furthermore, the claimed counter track joint permits a method of assembly wherein the first balls can be mounted in the first pairs of tracks and then the second balls can be mounted in the second pairs of tracks. By this feature it is achieved that the claimed counter track joint has an overall increased articulation angle at the same cage strength, or an increased strength at the same articulation angle.

The Applicant respectfully submits that neither Hildebrandt nor Ouichi, either alone or in combination teach the aforementioned claimed limitations and therefore reconsideration is warranted.

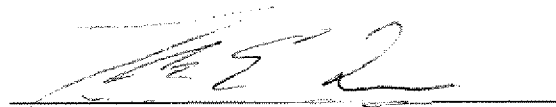
Neither reference teaches the unique combination of matching window length to particular tracks. As a matter of fact, the differing window length illustrated in Ouichi are configured such that equal sized windows are opposed from each other. Therefore there would be no ability to combine the teaches of Ouichi with Hildebrandt to arrive at the present invention. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested.

The Applicant asserts that all claims are in present condition for allowance and reconsideration is formally requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney, Thomas Donohue, at (248) 433-7221 if any unresolved matters remain with respect to this Response.

Respectfully submitted,

DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. Donohue', is written over a horizontal line.

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